

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 57th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION JOINT APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON LONG RANGE PLANNING

Call to Order: By **CHAIRMAN MATT MCCANN**, on January 15, 2001 at 8:00 A.M., in Room 350 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Matt McCann, Chairman (D)
Sen. Tom A. Beck (R)
Rep. Dave Kasten (R)
Sen. Jon Tester (D)
Rep. Steve Vick (R)

Members Excused: Sen. Bob Keenan, Vice Chairman (R)

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Jane Hamman, OBPP
Andrea Hyatt, Committee Secretary
Brian McCullough, Legislative Branch
Jon Moe, Legislative Branch
Christi Tyson, OBPP

Please Note: These are summary minutes. Testimony and discussion are paraphrased and condensed.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing(s) & Date(s) Posted: HB 6, 1/11/2001; HB 8,
1/11/2001

Executive Action:

CHAIRMAN MCCANN requested REP. KASTEN to sit in as Chairman until he returned from another meeting.

REP. KASTEN opened the hearing for **LACASA GRANDE, RENEWABLE RESOURCE GRANT LOAN (RRGL) PROJECT NO. 24, PG. 74.**

Proponents' Testimony:

Bob Fischer, DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES & CONSERVATION (DNRC), reviewed the project and recommendation.

Opponents' Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

REP. KASTEN questioned the depth of the well and funding. **Bob Fischer** responded.

REP. KASTEN closed the hearing for **LACASA GRANDE, RRGL PROJECT NO. 24, PG. 74.**

REP. KASTEN opened the hearing for the **HELENA VALLEY IRRIGATION DISTRICT, RRGL PROJECT NO. 44, PG. 127.**

{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 56}

Pam Smith, DNRC, reviewed the project and recommendation.

Proponents' Testimony:

Jim Foster, Manager, Helena Valley Irrigation District discussed the project and its history. **EXHIBIT(jlh11a01)**

Pete McHugh, President/Board of Directors, Helena Valley Irrigation District, discussed the project and the need for funding. **EXHIBIT(jlh11a02)**

Mike Murphy, Montana Water Resources Association, discussed the importance of the project and the funding.

Opponents' Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

Brian McCullough, Legislative Fiscal Division (LFD) questioned the rates. **Jim Foster** and **John Tubbs** responded.

REP. KASTEN requested clarification on the loan cost. **Jim Foster** and **John Tubbs** responded.

REP. KASTEN closed the hearing for the **HELENA VALLEY IRRIGATION DISTRICT, RRGL PROJECT NO. 44, PG. 127.**

REP. KASTEN opened the hearing for the **MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY PROJECT NO. 51, PG. 144.**

{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 255}

Pam Smith, DNRC, reviewed the project and recommendation.

Proponents' Testimony:

Carina Beck Director of Family and Graduate Housing, Montana State University provided a handout and described the project. **EXHIBIT(jlh11a03)**

Opponents' Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

Brian McCullough, LFD, questioned the price of rentals. Carina Beck responded. REP. KASTEN questioned matching funds Carina Beck responded. CHAIRMAN MCCANN questioned the ranking of the project. Bob Fischer responded. Jane Hamman questioned if the savings was not clear on the application. John Tubbs responded.

REP. KASTEN closed the hearing for the **MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY PROJECT NO. 51, PG. 144.**

CHAIRMAN MCCANN joined the meeting replacing REP. KASTEN.

CHAIRMAN MCCANN opened the hearing for **NEVADA CREEK DAM, RRGL PROJECT NO. 2, PG.16.**

{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 420}

Proponents' Testimony:

Bob Fischer, DNRC, reviewed the project and recommendation.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

SEN. BECK questioned the funding. Bob Fischer responded.

CHAIRMAN MCCANN questioned the number of years used for amortization. Bob Fischer responded.

Proponents' Testimony Continued:

Glenn McDonald, DNRC-State Water Projects Bureau, discussed the project and provided a fact sheet handout with pictures. **EXHIBIT**(j1h11a04)

{Tape :1; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 29}

Steve Graveley, President, Nevada Creek Water Users Association, discussed the project and provided a letter of his testimony with pictures. **EXHIBIT**(j1h11a05)

Opponents' Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

REP. KASTEN questioned the rates per acre foot. John Tubbs and Glenn McDonald responded. SEN. BECK questioned the interest rate on the loan; the cost of acre foot and a zero interest loan. John Tubbs and Glenn McDonald responded. Steve Graveley stated his concern with proper comparison with other areas. SEN. TESTER questioned how many acre foot, silt, recreational opportunities. Glenn McDonald responded. Steve Graveley provided further background on the canals. CHAIRMAN MCCANN questioned the number of producers involved..Steve Graveley responded. CHAIRMAN MCCANN questioned the hydro power earnings and if they help pay down the debt. John Tubbs responded. CHAIRMAN MCCANN requested a discussion of funding and revenues. John Tubbs responded. SEN. TESTER asked if other dams are being built with these funds. John Tubbs responded.

CHAIRMAN MCCANN closed the hearing for NEVADA CREEK DAM, RRGL PROJECT NO. 2, PG.16.

CHAIRMAN MCCANN opened the hearing on DNRC SEEPAGE MONITORING, PROJECT NO. 48, PG. 136.

{Tape : 1 Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 275}

Proponents' Testimony:

Pam Smith, DNRC, reviewed the project and recommendation.

Glenn McDonald, DNRC-State Water Projects Bureau, Discussed the projects and the funding.

Opponents' Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

SEN. TESTER questioned the sink holes and evacuation. **Glenn McDonald** responded. **REP. KASTEN** questioned the funding provided by both Fish, Wildlife and Parks and the DNRC for emergency projects. **Glenn McDonald** responded. **Brian McCullough, LFD**, questioned if they had emergency funds available now. **Glenn McDonald** responded. **CHAIRMAN MCCANN** questioned the emergency funding for Hobson earlier. **Bob Fischer** explained the difference in emergency funds.

CHAIRMAN MCCANN closed the hearing on **DNRC SEEPAGE MONITORING, PROJECT NO. 48, PG. 136.**

{Tape : 1; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 431}

CHAIRMAN MCCANN opened the hearing for the **RRGL PROJECT WITH NO RANK, PG. 176, MONTANA WATER RESOURCES IN THE 20TH CENTURY...**

Proponents' Testimony:

Pam Smith, DNRC, reviewed the project and recommendation.

Opponents' Testimony: None.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

SEN. TESTER asked if this is a job that a graduate student could perform. **REP. KASTEN** asked if could do without the grant. **Pam Smith** responded.

CHAIRMAN MCCANN closed the hearing for the **RRGL PROJECT WITH NO RANK, PG. 176, MONTANA WATER RESOURCES IN THE 20TH CENTURY...**

CHAIRMAN MCCANN opened the hearing on the **RRGL PROJECT WITH NO RANK, PG. 181, SNOWSHOE MINE.**

{Tape : 1; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 489}

Proponents' Testimony:

Pam Smith, DNRC, reviewed the project and recommendation.

Opponents' Testimony: None.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses: None.

CHAIRMAN MCCANN closed the hearing on the **RRGL PROJECT WITH NO RANK, PG. 181, SNOWSHOE MINE.**

{Tape : 2; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 0}

CHAIRMAN MCCANN opened the hearing for the **RRGL PROJECT WITH NO RANK, PG. 179, BERTHA MINE.**

Proponents' Testimony:

Pam Smith, DNRC, reviewed the project and recommendation.

Opponents' Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

SEN. TESTER questioned if this would proceed with out the grant. **Jane Hamman** questioned if this hauling was from several locations to one consolidated location. **Pam Smith** responded.

CHAIRMAN MCCANN closed the hearing for the **RRGL PROJECT WITH NO RANK, PG. 179, BERTHA MINE.**

CHAIRMAN MCCANN opened the hearing for **RRGL PROJECT NO. 3, PG. 19, REHABILITATION OF PRISON RANCH DAMS.**

{Tape : 2; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 48}

Proponents' Testimony:

Bob Fischer, DNRC, reviewed the project and recommendation.

Bill Dabney, Ranch Director, Montana Correctional Enterprise Division, Department of Corrections, described the project and the need for funding. He provided a handout of his testimony.
EXHIBIT (j1h11a06)

Ed. Grady, former Representative, rancher in Canyon Creek & member of the Advisory Committee for the Prison Ranch. Spoke in favor of the funding and the importance of dam.

Lyle Gillette, Mayor of Deer Lodge, provided some history and background and is in favor of funding.

Laurence Siroky, DNRC, responsible for dam safety, is in favor of funding.

John Tubbs, DNRC, provided the history of the dams.

Opponents' Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

REP. VICK questioned the conditions of the other dams and effect on this dam; will this continue for the next five sessions. **Laurence Siroka** responded. **SEN. TESTER** questioned the effect on all the lakes if one failed. **Bill Dabney** responded. **SEN. TESTER** questioned the income from sale of hay and the need for the grant. **Ross Swanson, Administrator for the Montana Correctional Enterprise Program**, responded. **Jane Hamman** asked for a list of members on the Prison Advisory Council. Ed Grady, Francis Bardnell, Bob Thoth, Francis Conkey, Ray Liebeck, Don Davis, Bill Cash and Sen. Beck. **CHAIRMAN MCCANN** questioned the cost, how much cash, in kind. **Bob Fischer** and **Ross Swanson** responded.

CHAIRMAN MCCANN closed the hearing for **RRGL PROJECT NO. 3, PG. 19, REHABILITATION OF PRISON RANCH DAMS.**

CHAIRMAN MCCANN opened the hearing for the **RRGL PROJECT NO. 1, PG. 14, BAIR DAM REHABILITATION.**

Proponents' Testimony:

{Tape : 2; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 0}

Bob Fischer, DNRC, reviewed the project and the recommendation.

Glenn McDonald, DNRC-State Water Projects Bureau, discussed the project and provided a fact sheet handout with pictures.

EXHIBIT(jlh11a07)

Gene Taber, Upper Musselshell Water Users, provided background and a letter signed by the Wheatland County Commisssioners.,

EXHIBIT(jlh11a08)

REP. GAY ANN MASOLO, HD 40, is in favor of funding.

Richard Moe, County Commissioner for Wheatland County and a user, is in favor of funding.

Opponents' Testimony: None.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

REP. KASTEN questioned the number of acres irrigated. **CHAIRMAN MCCANN** questioned the assessment cost and breakdown per acre foot. **REP. VICK** questioned why only get one cutting. **SEN. TESTER** questioned the number of producers. **Gene Tabor** responded?

CHAIRMAN MCCANN closed the hearing for the **RRGL PROJECT NO. 1, PG. 14, BAIR DAM REHABILITATION.**

CHAIRMAN MCCANN opened the hearing for RRGL Project No. 57, Pg. 159, the City of Great Falls-Yard Waste Management Facility.

{Tape : 2; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 203-515}

Proponents' Testimony:

Bob Fischer, DNRC, reviewed the project and recommendation.

John Thompson, Natural Resources Manager for City of Great Falls, manages compost and yard waste management facility. He discussed the project and requested that the committee reconsider the ranking.

Opponents' Testimony: None.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

REP. KASTEN questioned the charge for city pickup. **SEN. TESTER** questioned the price of their compost they sell and if they had other funding sources.

{Tape : 3; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 0}

CHAIRMAN MCCANN if they had a competitor in selling compost.

REP. VICK questioned who the compost was sold to. **Jane Hamman** the price of wood chips sold. **John Thompson** responded.

CHAIRMAN MCCANN closed the hearing for **RRGL PROJECT NO. 57, PG. 159, THE CITY OF GREAT FALLS-YARD WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITY.**

CHAIRMAN MCCANN opened the hearing for **RRGL PROJECT WITH NO RANK, PG. 171; THE TOWN OF CIRCLE-WATER RECLAMATION PROJECT.**

{Tape : 3; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 58}

Proponents' Testimony:

Bob Fischer, DNRC, reviewed the project and recommendation.

REP. DAVE KASTEN, HD 99, read from a letter FAXed to him from the **Town of Circle**. He also provided further background information.

Opponents' Testimony: None.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

SEN. TESTER questioned the engineering study. **CHAIRMAN MCCANN** questioned the cost of current water. **Brian McCullough** questioned the well depth. **Bob Fischer** responded.

CHAIRMAN MCCANN closed the hearing for **RRGL PROJECT WITH NO RANK, PG. 171; THE TOWN OF CIRCLE-WATER RECLAMATION PROJECT.**

CHAIRMAN MCCANN opened the hearing for **RRGL PROJECT NO. 19, PG. 61, GLASGOW IRRIGATION DISTRICT VANDALIA DAM REHAB - PHASE II.**

{Tape : 3; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 276-515}

{Tape : 3; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 0 - 3}

Proponents' Testimony:

Pam Smith, DNRC, reviewed the project and recommendation.

Deby Murch, Project Manager, provided a handout to the committee and gave an overhead projector presentation of the project.

EXHIBIT(jlh11a09)

Mike Murphy, Montana Water Resources Association, spoke in favor of funding the project.

Kay Blatter, Chairman of Milk River Joint Board of Control, spoke in favor of the funding.

Hugh Brookie, Vice President of Milk River Joint Board of Control and Malta Irrigation District, in favor of funding.

John Lacey, Commisisoner of Glasgow Irrigation District, in favor of funding.

CHAIRMAN MCCANN, HD 92, spoke in favor of funding.

Lee Cornwell, of Milk River Joint Board of Control, lives upstream, in favor of funding and the positive effect it would have on Hinsdale.

Opponents' Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

SEN. TESTER questioned the cost per acre foot. **Debbie Murch** responded. **John Tubbs** provided further information. **CHAIRMAN MCCANN** questioned the location. **Debbie Murch** responded.

CHAIRMAN MCCANN closed the hearing for **RRGL PROJECT NO. 19, PG. 61, GLASGOW IRRIGATION DISTRICT VANDALIA DAM REHAB - PHASE II.**

CHAIRMAN MCCANN opened the hearing for the **RRGL PROJECT NO. 22, PG. 69, MILK RIVER PROJECT-ST. MARY RIVER SIPHON REPAIR.**

{Tape : 3; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 004}

Proponents' Testimony:

Pam Smith, DNRC, reviewed the project and recommendation.

Kay Blatter, Chairman of Milk River Joint Board of Control, described the project and problems in detail and provided the committee with a requesting continuing support.

EXHIBIT(jlh11a10)

Jack Gist, Joint Board of Control, provided some history and the effects on the area.

Mike Murphy, Montana Water Resources Association, stated his support for the project.

Hugh Brookie, Vice President of Milk River Joint Board of Control and Malta Irrigation District, provided information on the costs.

John Lacey, Glasgow Irrigation District, discussed the need for this project.

REP. JEFF PATTISON HD 95, requested to go on record that he is in favor of this funding.

Opponents' Testimony: None.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

CHAIRMAN MCCANN questioned the project and assessment. **John Tubbs** provided information on federal funding.

CHAIRMAN MCCANN closed the hearing for the **RRGL PROJECT NO. 22, PG. 69, MILK RIVER PROJECT-ST. MARY RIVER SIPHON REPAIR.**

CHAIRMAN MCCANN opened the hearing for **RRGL PROJECT NO. 43, PG. 125, HILL COUNTY BEAVER CREEK DAM REHABILITATION.**

{Tape : 3; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 215}

Proponents' Testimony:

Pam Smith, DNRC, reviewed the project and recommendation.

Doug Kaercher, County Commissioner, provided background on the project and a handout describing the inspection reports findings. **EXHIBIT(jlh11a11)**

Opponents' Testimony: None.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

SEN. TESTER had questions regarding the sink hole. **REP. KASTEN** questioned the costs. **CHAIRMAN MCCANN** asked about the safety of those living below the dam. **Doug Kaercher** responded. **SEN. TESTER** had questions on other funding. **John Tubbs** responded.

CHAIRMAN MCCANN closed the hearing for **RRGL PROJECT NO. 43, PG. 125, HILL COUNTY BEAVER CREEK DAM REHABILITATION.**

{Tape : 3; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 505}

CHAIRMAN MCCANN opened the hearing for the **RRGL PROJECT NO. 53, PG. 149, MALTA IRRIGATION DISTRICT REPLACEMENT & MODIFICATION OF CHECK, ETC.**

Proponents' Testimony:

Pam Smith, DNRC, reviewed the project and recommendation.

{Tape : 4; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 0}

REP. DAVE KASTEN, stated that **REP. JEFF PATTISON, HD 95**, could not make the meeting but would like to go on record in favor of the funding.

Bud Mavencamp, Manager of the Malta Irrigation District, provided a handout of his testimony with pictures and provided background information on the project. **EXHIBIT(jlh11a12)**

Hugh Brookie, Chairman of the Malta Irrigation District, provided further background and information on the project.

Kay Blatter, Chairman of Milk River Joint Board of Control, is in favor of the project.

Lee Cornwell, of Milk River Joint Board of Control is in favor of the project.

Mike Murphy, Montana Water Resources Association, supports this project.

Opponents' Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses: None.

CHAIRMAN MCCANN closed the hearing for the **RRGL PROJECT NO. 53, PG. 149, MALTA IRRIGATION DISTRICT REPLACEMENT & MODIFICATION OF CHECK, ETC.**

CHAIRMAN MCCANN opened the hearing the **RRGL PROJECT NO. 54, PG. 151, CITY OF SCOBAY WELLFIELD REHABILITATION STUDY.**

{Tape : 4; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 111}

Proponents' Testimony:

Bob Fischer, DNRC, reviewed the project and recommendation. He stated they received a call from the City of Scobey that they would not be able to attend this meeting. Also Mark Kanane, hydrologist, out of Bozeman also called stating they could not attend.

Opponents' Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

REP. KASTEN suggested that Circle and Scobey might coordinate their projects and use the same firm. **CHAIRMAN MCCANN** commented for the need to encourage people to use the specialists in the field of their project. **SEN. TESTER** questioned the well depth. **Bob Fischer** responded.

CHAIRMAN MCCANN closed the hearing the **RRGL PROJECT NO. 54, PG. 151, CITY OF SCOBAY WELLFIELD REHABILITATION STUDY.**

CHAIRMAN MCCANN opened the hearing for the **RRGL PROJECT NO. 34, PG. 101, ELK MEADOWS RANCHETTES COUNTY WATER DISTRICT - WASTER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS.**

{Tape : 4; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 200}

Proponents' Testimony:

Bob Fischer, DNRC, reviewed the project and recommendation. He further commented that this is from a Special Session TSEP that was recommended by the Governor.

George Underhill, President, Board of Directors for Elk Meadows, described the project.

Becky Beard, Beard Environmental and Technical Assistance, representing Elk Meadows, provided details of the funding.

Alden Beard, project engineer, Stilling Engineers, provided background on the project.

Opponents' Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

REP. VICK questioned the position of the TSEP funding. **Becky Beard,** responded that it would be contingent on receiving the RRGL funding. **Bob Fischer** and **George Underhill** clarified further.

CHAIRMAN MCCANN closed the hearing for the RRGL Project No. 34, Pg. 101, Elk Meadows Ranchettes County Water District - Waster System Improvements.

{Tape : 4; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 400}

{Tape : 4; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 70}

The committee discussed HB 15 and the upcoming hearing.

The meeting was adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 11:55 A.M.

REP. MATT MCCANN, Chairman

ANDREA HYATT, Secretary

MM/AH

EXHIBIT (j1h11aad)